

**From:** Charles Callaway  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:39am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Charles B. Callaway, Ph.D.  
(North Carolina State University, Computer Science)  
U.S. Citizen from Texas, working in Italy

Dear sirs,

I am writing this comment in accordance with the Tunney Act on the antitrust case against the Microsoft Corporation. Specifically, I am writing to express my disgust at the way the case has been handled since the change of administrations after the last U.S. presidential election.

I am quite unhappy that a convicted monopolist company that does business in my technical field has profited itself at the expense of other legitimate companies by aggressively excluding them from the "free" market. Multiple times I have watched economically healthy companies with innovative new products be completely squelched or forced to merge with other near-monopolist companies because Microsoft has taken their innovation, "incorporated" it into their operating system, and used their position in the desktop market to exclude the original innovative company from any share of the market. Furthermore, once Microsoft has accomplished this, they then claim that the innovation is now completely integrated into the operating system and to remove it would be catastrophic to their millions of customers.

While Microsoft spokespersons have repeatedly claimed that their company drives innovation, the reality I have seen on the technical side of the issue is that it is patently obvious that they would prefer to take others' innovations instead. This has a chilling effect on smaller software developers around the world, the sum total of whom innovate far more often than Microsoft and most other large companies. Allowing Microsoft to retain in toto the fruits of their monopolistic practices sends a message to other companies that their innovations will be stifled, and sends a message to large companies that they can freely trample the rights of others. I encourage you to revisit the penalty settlement and ensure that more stringent measures are taken.

Sincerely yours,  
Charles B. Callaway, Ph.D.

